To the KINGS

most Excellent Majesty,

THE HVMBLE ANSWER

OF THE

Lords and Commons

Assembled in Parliament,

To His Majesties last Message

the 11. *September*, 1642.

With a true Copy of the Message.

16. Septemb. 1642.

ORdered by the Lords in Parliament, That this Message with the Answer shall be forthwith printed and published.

J. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON,

Printed for *J. Wright*. 17. Septemb. 1642.

To the KING

Lords and Commons

TO THE

KINGS most Excellent MAJESTY

The humble Answer of the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled.

May it please Your Majesty,

WEE the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, do present this our humble Answer to your Majesties message of the 11. of this instant moneth of *Septemb.* When we consider the oppressions, rapines, firing of houses, murthers, (even at this time whilest your Majesty propounds a Treaty) Committed upon your good Subjects by your Souldiers, in the presence, and by the authority of their commanders, being of the number of those, whom your Majesty holds your selfe bound in honour and conscience to protect as persons doing their duties; wee cannot thinke your Majesty hath done all that in you lies to prevent or remove the present distractions, nor so long

as your Majesty will admit no peace without securing the Authors and Instruments of these mischiefes from the justice of the Parliament, which yet shall be ever dispenc'd with all requisite moderation, and distinction of offences, although some of those persons be such in whose preservation your Kingdome cannot be safe, nor the unquestionable rights and priviledges of Parliament be maintained: without which, the power and dignity thereof will fall into contempt: We beseech your Majesty therefore to consider your expressions, That God shall deale with you and your posterity as your Majesty desires the preservation of the just rights of Parliament, which being undeniable in the trying of such as we have declared to be Delinquents, we shall beleeve your Majesty, both towards your selfe and Parliament, will not in this priviledge we are most sensible of, deny us that which belongs unto the meanest Court of Justice in this Kingdome: neither hath your Majesty cause to complaine that you are denyed a Treaty, when we offer all that a Treaty can produce, or your Majesty expect, security, honor, service, obedience, support, and all other effects of an humble loyall and faithfull subjection; and seeke nothing, but that our Religion, Liberty, Peace of the Kingdome, safety of the Parliament, may be secured from the open violence, and cunning practises of a wicked party, who have long plotted our ruine and destruction: And if there were any cause of Treaty, we know no competent persons to Treate betwixt the King and Parliament: And if both cause and persons were such as to invite Treaty, The season is altogether unfit, whilest your Majesties Standard is up, and your Proclamations and Declarations unrecalled, whereby your Parliament is [illegible] Traytors.

If

If Your Majesty shall persist to make Your selfe a shield and defence to those instruments, and shall continue to reject our faithfull and necessary advice, for securing and maintaining Religion and Liberty, with the peace of the Kingdome, and safety of the Parliament, we doubt not but to indifferent judgments it will easily appear who is most tender of that innocent Blood which is like to be spilt in this cause, Your Majesty, who by such persisting, doth endanger your selfe, and your Kingdomes, or we who are willing to hazzard our selves to prevent both. We humbly beseech Your Majesty to consider how impossible it is, that any Protestation, though published in Your Majesties Name, of Your tendernesse of the miseries of your Protestant Subjects in *Ireland*, of your resolution to maintaine the protestant Religion, and Lawes of this Kingdom, can give satisfaction to reasonable and indifferent men, when at the same time divers of the Irish Traytors and Rebels, the knowne favourers of them, and agents for them, are admitted to Your Majesties presence with grace and favour, and some of them imployed in Your service: when the Cloathes, Munition, Horses, and other necessaries bought by Your Parliament, and sent for the supply of the Army against the Rebels there, are violently taken away, some by Your Majesties command, others by Your ministers, and applied to the maintenance of an unnaturall warre against Your people here.

All this notwithstanding, as we never gave your Majesty any just cause of withdrawing Your selfe from your great Councell, so it hath ever been and shall ever be farre from us to give any impediment to your returne, or to neglect any proper meanes of curing the distempers of the Kingdome, and closing the dangerous breaches betwixt your

Majesty

Majeſty and your Parliament, according to the great truſt which lies upon us. And if your Majeſty ſhall now be pleaſed to come backe to Your Parliament, without Your Forces, we ſhall be ready to ſecure your Royall Perſon, your Crowne and Dignity with our lives and fortunes; your preſence in this your great Councell being the onely meanes of any Treaty betwixt your Majeſty and them, with hope of ſucceſſe.

And in none of our deſires to your Majeſty ſhall we be ſwayed by any particular mans advantage, but ſhall give a cleere teſtimony to your Majeſty and the whole World, that in all things done by us, we faithfully intend the good of your Majeſty, and of your Kingdomes. And that we will not be diverted from this end by any private or ſelfe-reſpects whatſoever.

To

To Our Right Trusty and Wellbeloved,

The SPEAKER of the House of PEERES.

WE have taken most wayes, used most endeavours, and made most reall expressions to prevent the present distractions and dangers; let all the world judge, as well by former passages as by Our two last Messages, which have been so fruitlesse, that though we have descended to desire and presse it, not so much as a treaty can be obtained, unlesse we would denude our selfe of all force to defend us from a visible strength marching against us, and admit those persons as Traitors to Us who according to their duty, their oathes of Allegiance, and the Law, have appeared in defence of Us their King and Liege Lord,

whom

[illegible] are bound in Conscience and Honour [illegible] before, though We disclaimed all Our Proclamations and Declarations, and erecting of Our Standard against Our Parliament: All we have now left in Our power is to expresse the deepe sense We have of the publique misery of this Kingdome, in which we involved that of our distressed protestants of Ireland, and to apply our selfe to our necessary defence, wherein we wholly rely upon the providence of God, and the Justice of our cause, and the affection of our good people, so far are We from putting them out of Our protection, when you shall desire a treaty of Us, We shall piously remember whose bloud is to be spilt in this quarrell, and cheerefully embrace it. And as no other reason induced Us to leave our City of London, but that with honour and safety we could not stay there nor raise any forces, but for the necessary defence of Our Person, and the Law, against levies in opposition to both, so we shall suddenly and most willingly return to the one, and disband the other as soone as those causes shall be removed. The God of Heaven direct you and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, And preserve with Us and our Posterity as we desire the preservation and advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the Law and liberty of the Subject, the just rights of Parliament, and the peace of the Kingdome.

FINIS.